

Awards Celebrating Latinx Children's Literature

Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature

The Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs, CLASP, founded the Américas Award in 1993 to encourage and commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books.

Up to two awards (for primary and secondary reading levels) are given in recognition of U.S. published works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected nonfiction (from picture books to works for young adults) that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx communities in the United States. By linking the Americas, the intent is to reach beyond geographic borders, as well as multicultural-international boundaries, focusing instead upon cultural heritages within the hemisphere.

On the website you will find lists of past winners, video recording of the awards ceremony, subject guides, and teaching resources, including curriculum guides for several of the award winners.

International Latino Book Awards

Since 1997, Empowering Latino Futures has celebrated literature through its book awards. The objective has been to recognize the greatness in both Latino writers and in non-Latinos who are writing on Latino topics. In 2007 the Latino Book Awards were renamed International Latino Book Awards. To date, 3,194 authors and publishers have been honored over the years. In 2020, 297 authors were recognized in 96 book categories. Categories include Children's, Young Adult, Nonfiction, Fiction, Design, Translation, and Best First Books. While 85% of our winners are not yet well-known, the awards have proven to be an appropriate launching pad for the next generation of authors who work with smaller publishing houses. These awards have grown to become the largest Latino cultural awards in the U.S. In 2020, it took 214 judges to evaluate all book entries. This is a dedicated effort to growing the awareness for books written by, for, and about Latinos.

Pura Belpré Award

The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), divisions of the American Library Association (ALA), and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA), an ALA affiliate.

The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. As a children's librarian, storyteller, and author, she enriched the lives of Puerto Rican children in the U.S. through her pioneering work of preserving and disseminating Puerto Rican folklore. The award is now given annually. It was given as a biennial award from 1996 through 2008. Beginning with the 2021 award, the Young Adult Author category was added with YALSA's partnership.

The webpage includes lists of prior winners and a link to a resource center housed at [Teaching Books.net](#).

Tomás Rivera Award

The Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award was established in 1995 and was named in honor of Dr. Tomás Rivera, a distinguished alumnus of Texas State University. Tomás Rivera's writings have provided tremendous hope for generations of migrants who had previously not had their lives inscribed in literature, ensuring with his literature that their lives were not lived in vain or forgotten. His enduring presence through his literature will long stand in the United States as an example of what the Mexican American community is capable of nurturing, educating, and producing.

The creation of this Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award in his honor goes a long way toward keeping alive the prophecy Rivera saw as part of our legacy as members of a healthy and responsible community. This children's book award will also work toward sustaining the vision he saw for the education of Mexican Americans in the Southwest and the greater United States. Texas State University College of Education developed the award to honor authors and illustrators who create literature that depicts the Mexican American experience.

The website includes lists of past winners, book activities, and other resources.

Spanish Language Picture Book Awards

*Not necessarily Latinx literature, although some are listed.

Bank Street College of Education Best Spanish Language Picture Book Award

The Best Spanish Language Picture Book prize is a biennial prize given to a book that was published or translated into Spanish. Award candidates are identified from the annual Best Spanish Language Picture Book of the Year list, which is prepared by the Spanish Language Affiliate (SLA) of the Children's Book Committee. The award jury is composed of Spanish-speaking members of the SLA, CBC, Bank Street College, New York Public Library, and City University of New York.